

Cllr Motion E Labour Amendment

~~Abolish~~ Garden Waste Charges in Haringey

Proposer: Cllr Seema Chandwani ~~Scott Emery~~

Seconder: ~~Cllr Dawn Barnes~~ Cllr Erdal Dogan

Council notes that:

- Austerity measures which began under the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government led to a significant cut to the council's budget, resulting in approximately 30% decrease in our budget;
- Haringey introduced garden waste charges in 2017 when many councils in England began charging for garden waste to remove burdens on shrinking local authority budgets including Liberal Democrat controlled Sutton Council who charge £80.52 a year; Liberal Democrat controlled Richmond Upon Thames council who charge £41 for a 6month service, and Liberal Democrat Kingston Council charge £86 a year.
- All three Liberal Democrat Council's provide a fortnightly collection as opposed to a weekly service in Haringey, and Haringey's charges are lower than all Liberal Democrat controlled councils in London.
- ~~Haringey's recycling rate peaked in 2016/17, the year garden waste charges were introduced;~~
- ~~Haringey's recycling rate was falling well before the Covid-19 pandemic and the current cost of living crisis;~~
- ~~Levels of use in the garden waste service are still running below those in 2017 when charging was introduced;~~
- ~~Local Authority data indicates that free collections can achieve up to 80-90% participation rate in households with garden waste when compared to an estimated 35% only under charged services;~~
- The long awaited Government changes to recycling; now named "simpler recycling" sets out that all households must be eligible for a garden waste collection by 31 March 2026 and that where a collection is requested, local authorities can charge for the collection.

Officers in Haringey alongside most councils responded to the 2021 consultation on consistency in household and business recycling in England accepting that free garden waste is a great initiative but can only be achieved if we are given full cost recovery new burdens funding.

However it appears the UK Government may be u-turning on this commitment based on costs of implementing the scheme across England.

- ~~The MTFs income target for increased subscription charges is not expected to be hit this year, for a second year running;~~
- ~~Haringey is committed through 'Destination 50%' to recycle 50% of household waste by 2030, but is currently achieving a level of just 30.4%, and targeting an increase to only 32.5% by 2025;~~
- ~~As of 2022, 10/32 London Boroughs offered free garden waste collections.~~

Council believes that:

- ~~Stopping charging for garden waste collection is the only way the scheme will achieve satisfactory take-up from residents;~~
- ~~Failure to remove charges for garden waste collection would signify that the council is not truly committed to recycling;~~
- ~~Reaching the target of 50% of waste being recycled will only be possible if the council is willing to put significant resources into this area;~~
- ~~The experiment of charging for garden waste has been a failure.~~
- ~~Pushing the UK Government to properly finance the~~
- We must continue to put pressure on the UK Government to introduce fully funded statutory garden waste collections to increase recycling across the country.

Council resolves to:

- ~~End charging for garden waste collection by the end of the 2024/25 financial year.~~

Write to the UK Government on behalf of the council to support this request to provide the funding to deliver free garden waste services as initially proposed across the country.